Health Programme

† 4306. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have carried out any comprehensive survey at national level for health programme and with regard to its allotment, Statewise;

(b) whether the programmes run by Government have got expected and desired success;

(c) if not, the main reasons therefore; and

(d) the future plans of Government to make these health programmes successful and to popularise them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) National level surveys were carried out to measures prevalence and causes of blindness, detection of hidden case of leprosy under Modified Leprosy Elimination Campaign (MLEC) and prevalence of iodine deficiency disorders. Also Nation wide HIV sentinel surveillance is being carried out annually to monitor the trends of HIV infection.

(b) and (c) Significant achievments have been made as a result of implementation of health programmes. Guineaworm has been eradicated; prevalence of leprosy brought down from 57/10,000 population in 1981 to 5,19/ 10,000 in March, 1999; morbidity and mortality on account of malaria contained and cure rate under Revised National Tuberculosis Programme signficantly improved; polio virtually eradicated; and coverage of mother and children with reproductive and child health expanded in a substantial manner.

The non-achievement of desired levels of success in some cases can be attributed to lack of awareness among the people in availing of health services particularly the preventive measures, remoteness of certain areas, illiteracy, poverty etc.

(d) Government has been making every effort to augument the resources for the health sector by mobilising external assistance from bilateral and multilateral agencies for implementation of National Health Programmes for Malaria, TB, Leprosy, Blindness and AIDS.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The programmes are being constantly reviewed to improve implementation. Attention is also being given to increasing public awareness through information, education and communication activities.

Health Officers at Ports and Airports

4307. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to post Port Health Officers at airports and ports to check the standard of edible items being imported for human consumption;

(b) if so, the functions of these officers and how they are proposed to be placed vis-a-vis customs officials; and

(c) the factors justifying the need for introduction of a separate cadre of Port Health Officers (PHOs) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NT. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) The Port Health Officers/Airport Health Officers are already posted at Ports/Airports respectively and are required to assist the custom officers as and when required under section 151(b) of the customs Act 1962 for checking the fitness of edible items being imported for human consumption.

(b) There is no separate cadre of Port Health Officers. Doctors of the Central Health Services are posted as Port Health Officers.

Popularity of Herbal Medicines

4308. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Times of India dated 6th April, 2000 under the caption "Indian Medicine Systems gaining ground";

(b) if so, the reaction thereof;

(c) whether any authentic survey has been conducted so far to assess popularity of the Indian herbal medicines in the global market and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken to promote Indian Medicines, in collaboration, if necessary, with Indian industries ?